

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

35 USC §112

The Office rejected claims 16-19 as failing to comply with the written description requirement, specifically with respect to the language "different first and second drive rollers having first and second fabric panels". The Office maintains that the Specification only shows a single drive tube and two idler tubes. The Applicant agrees with respect to claims 16, 18 and 19, and has removed the word "drive" in claim 16. Claims 18-19 are amended by virtue of their dependency.

The Applicant views the rejection as being improper with respect to claim 17 because claim 17 depends upon claim 1.

35 USC §102

The Office rejected claims 13, 21 and 22 as being anticipated by Enchos (US 2002/0185637). The Applicant disagrees, especially in view of the amendments herein.

Claims 13, 21, and 22 have been amended to recite that the panels have opposing faces or flat surfaces that are parallel but not co-planar. In Enchos, the planes defined by the opposing faces or flat surfaces of the belts are co-planar.

35 USC §103

The Office rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6, 9-12 and 14-20 as being obvious over Enchos (US 2002/0185637) in view of Campbell (US 6161702). The Applicant disagrees, especially in view of the amendments herein.

With respect to claims 1, no combination of references teaches, suggests or motivates disposing the stabilizer between the panels. Indeed, a POSITA would contemplate just the opposite because stabilizers are most effective the closer they are to the edges. Claims 2, 4, 6, and 9-12 are allowable, among other things, by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

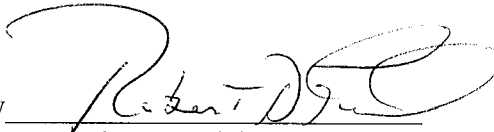
Claims 14-20 are allowable, among other things, by virtue of their dependence on claim 13.

Request For Allowance

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 9/22/08

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